

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE'S (USPTO)  
NATIONAL TRADEMARK EXPO

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO's) National Trademark Expo. In a time of great challenges for the American and global economy, I want to join the USPTO in its efforts to recognize the vital role trademarks play in the economy.

The 2008 National Trademark Expo was a great success and was attended by more than 7,000 from the trademark community as well as the public at large. This year's 2-day event will be held on Friday, May 8th, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, May 9th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The purpose of the Expo is to educate the public about the value and important role trademarks play in our society and the global marketplace.

Trademarks are words, names, symbols, sounds, or colors that identify and distinguish the goods and services of one party from those of others. The Trademark Expo will highlight the different types of trademarks including trademarks that identify shapes and configurations of products, century-old registered trademarks, the historical evolution and transformation of trademarks, and the history of people behind certain trademarks.

The USPTO campus will turn into a "Trademark Theme Park" featuring company booths, themed displays, costumed characters, and inflatables. Additions to this year's Trademark Expo include guided tours, activities for children, and educational lectures on anti-counterfeiting, how to file a trademark, and "Trademarks 101." A large cast of costumed characters masquerading to tunes played by the United States Air Force Band's brass quintet promise a festive introduction for speakers at this year's opening ceremony.

During the Trademark Expo, costumed trademarked characters that the public has come to associate with particular goods and services, including the Pillsbury Doughboy®, Sprout®, Hershey's Kisses®, Maisy®, Curious George®, Peter Rabbit®, Energizer Bunny®, Mr. Jelly Belly®, and The Grinch®, among others, will parade about the USPTO campus, and large inflatable characters, including The Cat in the Hat®, Thomas the engine from Thomas & Friends®, and Green Giant®, will decorate the grounds. Costumed characters in the shape of crayons from Crayola®, displayed in a spectrum of colors, will escort children through the educational activities including a story time featuring literary trademarked characters sponsored by Hooray for Books!, a local children's bookstore. The Hershey's Kissmobile® and a UPS® truck will help tell the story of the prevalence of trademarks in our daily lives and their value as source indicators.

On average, people are exposed to 1,500 trademarks each day and more than 30,000 if they make a trip to the grocery store. In a time of globalization, counterfeit goods pose an increasing threat to American businesses, and

trademarks assist the public in discerning between authentic and counterfeit merchandise.

Some of America's leading large corporations, small businesses with unfolding success stories, governmental agencies, and non-profit corporations will highlight the various types of trademarks and the benefits of Federal trademark registration. The exhibitors include Bridgestone Corporation, Burberry Limited, Callaway Golf Company, CMG Worldwide, Inc., Fred Gretsche Enterprises/The Bigsby Company, Galaxy Systems, Inc., International Trademark Association (INTA), Internet Keep Safe Coalition, The Hershey Company/Hershey Chocolate & Confectionery Corporation, The Pepsco Group, Inc., The Travelers Companies, Inc., United Parcel Service of America, Inc., Urangatang Web Design, LLC, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Department of Energy.

The Trademark Expo will emphasize the essential role the USPTO plays in reviewing applications for trademarks and issuing federal trademark registrations. An award-winning leader in handling electronic filings, the USPTO will also showcase its electronic trademark application system.

During these uncertain economic times, I applaud the USPTO for its continued efforts to educate the public on the role of trademarks through the National Trademark Expo. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the USPTO, at this time when trademark protection and intellectual property rights play an increasingly important role in our global economy.

**MOMMA HARRIS**

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, in recognition of this Mother's Day, I rise to honor a special mother and grandmother, Sandra L. Harris—or Momma Harris as she is more affectionately known.

Sandra grew up in Cartersville, GA where she spent a good bit of time up on Red Top Mountain State Park. From a young age Sandra knew the value of a day's pay as she worked in the concession stand and as a lifeguard at the park.

Sandra would later meet Charles Harris from Cassville, GA and the two would become married. Sandra relocated with him to San Antonio and Wichita Falls, TX while he served in the military. In her personal career Sandra has worked in various occupations through the years including a bank teller and salesperson, but her passion lies in the real estate business where she has been quite successful.

After leaving Texas and moving back to Georgia Sandra had two sons, Chuck and James Harris. Momma Harris has taught her boys work ethic, faith, and the strength and character only a southern woman can instill into her sons. In addition to her two sons, Sandra has a vibrant grandson who she loves deeply, Wyatt Harris, who calls her Granny Harris.

Momma Harris is a woman of deep love, faith, and generosity. She is the type of person that anyone could hope to have for a mother. You can just ask anyone in Cartersville, GA and they will tell you that San-

dra Harris will leave a lasting impression on anyone that spends just a few minutes around her.

Madam Speaker, I would like to wish the best to Sandra Harris, and thank her for representing the ideals of a loving and supporting mother on this Mother's Day. Let her commitment to her family serve as an example to us all. Sandra is a great American and I wish her a very happy Mother's Day with many more to come.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMENDING THE MIDLAND  
NORTHSTARS PEE WEE AA  
HOCKEY TEAM

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the team members of the Midland Northstars Pee Wee AA hockey team on winning the USA Hockey Tier II 12-and-under Youth Nationals on Sunday, April 5, 2009. They have represented the state well with their perseverance and athleticism, and we are very proud of their national accomplishments.

The Northstars' 6–3 win over the East Coast Eagles of Raleigh, NC completed a six-game unbeaten run through the national tournament.

The Northstars—a travel team from the Midland Amateur Hockey League located in my district, outscored their opponents 36–7 in the five-day national tournament.

Team members include Turner Anderson, Tyler Angers, Samuel Brushaber, Drake Cerngul, Cam Fisher, Andrew Healey, Matthew Lee, Michael Leslie, Jacob Mackie, Travis McNally, Zachary Paisley, Steven Roberts, Joshua Ruthig, Derek Striker, Jacob Swartz, Brandon Veihl, Colin Walters. The team is Coached by Gregory Walters, assisted by Scott Cerngul, John Hollingsworth, Terry McNally, and James Roberts. The team manager is Kent Striker. The Northstars are also two-time Michigan state champions.

I am honored today to recognize the Midland Northstars Pee Wee AA team for their accomplishments, and congratulate them on their outstanding performance.

**HONORING TAYLOR COURTER**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 6, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Taylor Courter a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Taylor has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Taylor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.